

A
SERMON

PREACH'D

On the 30th of *January*, 1717-8.

AT THE

Parish Church of St. *Andrew's*
Holburn.

By *HENRY SACHEVEREL*, D. D.

Phillippians ch. 3d, v. 6th.
Concerning Zeal Persecuting the Church.

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Philippians ch. 3d, v. 6th.

Concerning Zeal, Persecuting the Church.

THE Appostle here out of a zealous Form of Religion, under the mask of Piety, and a zeal for that perfection which he then bore, which was that of persecution, for there was none so ready as he was to persecute the Christians Church, with what earnestness did he hang, Imprison, Cntr, Hack, and Slay, all those of the Christian profession, throw down all those and trample under foot, them that would not forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, and be conformible to his notorious and persecuting mind, untill a vision withstood him and his persecuting followers, which cried unto him, *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me*, at which time the eyes of his mind was opened and the darkness of his understanding took away, which made him say I am one of the least of the Apostles, which am not fit to be called an Apostle because I persecuted the Church of God; but before this Conversion, with

what zeal did he trample under foot all the good and pious members of Christs Church with the rest of those bloody minded *Jews*, which made havock of the Temple, and out of a blind zeal for Religion, stuck not at Crucifying the Lord of Life, the only Beloved Son of God, Barbarously Murdering and killing, Racking, Tortoring, and Imprisoning all those of his followers. O what guilt was this thus to mangle and scourge the Lord Jesus Christ, and then to put him to that shameful Death of the Cross, and all this was done under a pretended Zeal for Religion, this was their Zeal. For, says the Apostle, Concerning Zeal persecuted the Church. For there was at that time, a wicked Schismatical sort of Zelots of a head-strong Army which set up a Superstitious Religion of their own wills and Tyranical Humours, and to many in this our days have not fell short of the same principals, for I may truly, and boldly say that they have rather mended their hands in Cruelty, Oppression, Hatred, Envy, Malis, and sowing Discord amongst brethren, striving to out-set as on this black and dismal day all Religion, Piety and Virtue. O Lord what a hight is this Fanatick brood come to, which gather themselves together against our Church and Constitution, *Howe* Schismatics was never at such a hight as we find them now but when they Barbrously and Cruelly Murdred our King and Sovereign, which was as all the rest of their Hypocritical ways, this amongst them is called Zeal for Religion, which brings me to my Text again, *Concerning Zeal, Persecuting the Church*, from which I shall consider,

First, The true notion of Zeal.

Secondly, I shall lay before you, the meaning of true Zeal, with all its attendances.

And Thirdly, I shall apply the Whole.

And

And First, I shall begin with the particular, which is the notion of true Zeal, which I take to consist of Love, Charity, Meekness, long suffering, Forbearing one another in Love and not envying, for says our blessed Saviour, *If thy Eye be evil thy whole Body is full of Darkness.*

True Zeal, for Religion fills the mind with fervancy and fervancy with devotion, that is, Zeal in Religious and Christian minded Men, but the Zeal which the Apostle speaketh of in my Text, is that kind of Zeal that those Schismatical Zlots was possessed with, when they by their Fire brands which they threw out of their Pulpits to set all the Kingdom on Fire, and throw down our Church and Government by taking away first the Life of our Arch-Bishop the Father and Supporter of our holy Church, and then raising an Army, to take all the power out of that Royal King *Charles* of blessed and glorious Memory, making a Rebellion and raising a Law contrary to all divine or humane Laws that ever was made before, to take away the life of our King and Sovereign, and then over throw our Constitution both in Church and State. O how doth his righteous Blood call for vengeance, that blessed Martire, who laid down his Life like a Lamb, forgiving all his Enemies, and praying to God to forgive them, it would make all true Protestants that love our Church of *England*, the blood to chill in their Vains, to see and hear this Cruelty, what Devilish tribe that profess Zeal and Religion, have Murdered so barbarously, so patient a King, but he freely laid down his earthly Crown for a Crown of Glory, but then how was all good Men turned out and thrown out of their places, which they were Lawfully and Justly put into, and our Churches made Stables of, thus was our most Holy Religion trampled and villified

under the Cloak of Zeal and fervancy, come says their seditious preachers, let us Fight the Lords Battle, and this wltin that Divelish crew was Religion and Piety, when their hands were goar'd in Blood, ye Serpents, ye Generation of Vipers, how can you escape the Damnation of Hell, Wherefore behold I send unto you Prophets and Wise Men, and Scribes, and some of them you shall kill and crucifie and some of them you shall scourge in your Synagogues, and persecute them from City to City, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of Righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharius son of Barachius whom ye slew between the Temple and the Alter, verily I say, all these things shall come upon this generation, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets and Stonest them which are sent unto thee, how oft would I have gathered thy Children together even as a hen gathereth her Chicken under her Whings and ye would not.*

So many times as they have heard and Red the Holy Scriptures, and what threats and punishments God has pronounced against all those that dip their hands in the blood of his annointed ones whome he gives power to on Earth to govern the wills and minds of wicked Men to keep them in Subjection, that they may not run astray from Gods Laws, nor Rebell against his Sovereign Goodness. For, says the Appostle, *For Rulers are not a Terror to Good works but to the Evil, what wilt thou then not be afraid of the power, do that which is good and thou shalt have praise of the same,*

What Man in the World, would blind himself so much, and deceive his own Soul, as to go on in such blind Zealous ways as those Enemies of ours, that Fanatick brood, which trample down all the wholesom principals of our Othodox Church of
England,

England, by Law Established, and on this day betray-
ed the Life of that blessed Martire for which we
Lament and all true Lovers of true Monarchy, for
have we not cause to pray to God, that his Right-
eous blood which calleth from Heaven for vengeance,
may not be laid to our charge nor our posterity.

How many of that brood will say, and do say,
what have those Pulpit Trumpeters to do with
those things, No, they would have us, the Shepherds
of Gods Flock, to be altogether silent at their wicked
and blood thirsty Cruelties, and then they may
sway all things as they would, after their own
damnable Doctrines and heresies.

O if they could but put a pad-lock on our Mouths
and keep us from preaching the Wholsome Laws
of God, that of Subjection to Gods Visgerants,
then should we soon to our sorrow and discomfort
feel the weight of their Zeal and Hypocritical belling
out for Religion and piety, Liberty Liberty they
call out for aloud, but forget when they had
usurped the power out of our blessed Martyre, and
taken all the power into their hands, how much
liberty did they give.

O Monstrous Rebels, how do you think that we
can forget already, our Captivity and sufferings
which was a bundantly more cruel than that of the
Israelites in *Egypt*, but instead of rewarding you
after such a manner, we like the Sons of a most
Merciful Church and Government, free from perse-
cution, give you all the liberty that can be desired,
and you cannot be satisfied, and instead of reward-
ing you after your own cruel and bloodthirsty
way, we pray to God for your conversion, and
that he would be pleased to write a conversion in
your hearts and call you as he did *Paul* our Apostle
from persecuting the tre Church of Christ, that you
may

may not through a blind Zeal persecute the Church of God, for we preach not our selves but Christ Jesus our Lord, and our selves your servants and for Jesus sake; which brings me to my second particular, namely,

The true ground of true Zeal with all its attendances which is as followeth.

First, The true ground of true Zeal is performed when we place our affections on the glory of Gods Kingdom, always studying how to promote Love Friendship and constant Communion in the Church of Christ.

They are a Zealous and Good People, that make it their indeavour to promote Religious practices and serve the Lord their God in holiness and Humility of mind and Spirit, serving him in all his just and Righteous Commands that he has commanded in his hold word and keepe his holy Statutes loving one another for Christ sake, this is the true ground of true Zeal, where Religion is laid open to the eyes of all Men for their profit and good.

And when Men are Zealous in doing good to all Men, teaching one another the true faith Christianity with the bond of peace.

O Lord that this true Zeal was but once grafted in the hearts of those blind Zealots of our Land, then would our Kingdom flourish, and we and our posterity would be filled with praise to see Fanaticism Athism and all the rest of their Schismatical train of venomous Serpents quite banished out of our Land, then would Princes power be regarded and we need not fear but God would be so gracious to us all as to forgive us that crying sin of Murdering our King and Sovereign, and Striving to the utmost

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